American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence, March 1928

Box Number:	***Folder Number:***
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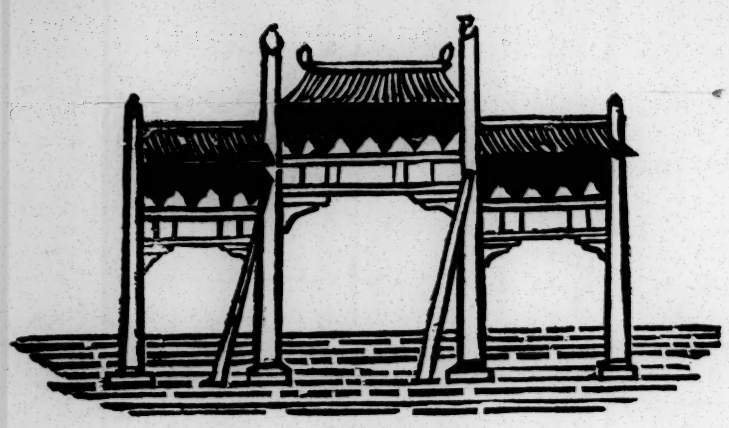


10 Hsuan Hai Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
March 4, 1928

Dearest Ones:
Come in thru the fancy "pailow" on street sides + let's have a visit! There are also of the woodcut which Elizabeth Goerges drew. These may be at the summer palace or maybe in streets of Peking. painted with lovely designs on them in brilliant colors when new. Not a great deal of this kind of building is being done now.

Have a few minutes to visit before I go up to help Mrs. Eames. She's having a cold which has gone the circuit. She + Anita have been in today tho she was by sheer commands I got Anita in. I have been counting my blessings so often these days + one is perfect freedom from colds or grip all year. I won't say in future but the past is safe + I praise Him for such good health after my sickness last summer. It has so fully restored me. Of course by night I'm tired for language study does so take ones energy but I sleep P.M. ½ to ¾ hr after lunch + try to get to bed early; we can get fruit here + we have it tried a day as much as we want - always breakfast + lunch - that helps so much. I just praise Him for this and such new deep joy He is giving. What a privilege to be here + what new fun as the language comes bit by bit.

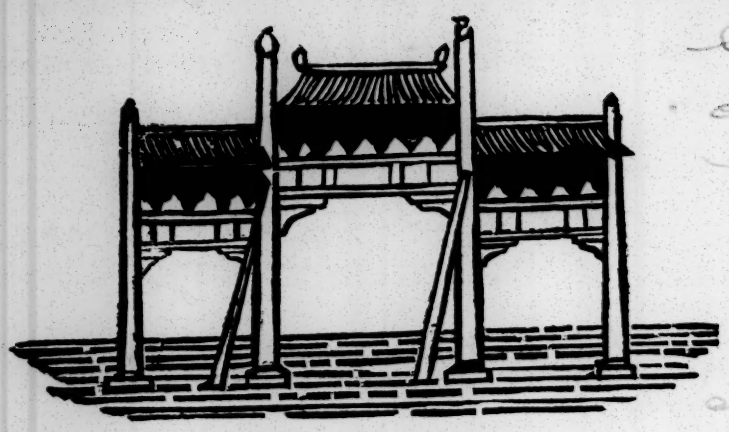
This week hasn't been so terribly eventful in some ways but in other ways very much so. One thing is this: Miss Ling I've mentioned as being so fine on Wed. asked me about our wanting a Chinese home + said she'd not specify which one but in the process of our looking if our atten-

places failed she asked one of us to come there + showed me the room beautiful in white- it was fixed as the bridal room for her brother + is lovely. That place has advantages + disadvantages the disadvantage being her fine English! If she knows we want Chinese she will use it. Then Thurs. went to Mrs. Tsui of Peking + called She was so cordial + friendly. Quite fat + jolly said her nickname is (Chua pew wan 話不了) "never finished talking" — It was quite true but we loved it, for dear Peking was lovely. Sounds tones round more as if said thru a mouth full of mush; This is the ideal place for language. She has three daughters + 1 son + they wouldn't speak much English - She none. Then Mrs. Lewis-bury called again at Mrs. Hsi's + she said she is willing to take someone. She too speaks English but would not if we want Chinese. So the ways seem opening — Mrs. Tsui hasn't said for sure-

Saturday I spend almost all day trying to review 1000 characters for the recognition exam on next Friday. We seem to have a perpetual exam — but we're getting some work off. This is the first year's exam no one has taken so we must. By August I must recognize 1000 more. That's 2nd year. These last weeks we've been working on imitation + copying exact tonation + rythm of teachers. Friday at a test class Mr. Lewisbury said he felt we'd progressed + there was a bit of "garlic + onion" flavor to our speech. This is of course difficult. We hear almost no Chinese speaking English without a Chinese accent - so vice versa. Those born here of course = learn it naturally!

[The next Sunday]

Then I had to leave to go to fix Mrs. E. bed etc — felt weary so went to bed to get good rest. That Sunday was full. Church + S.S. in morning + heard Mr. Taylor preach then back after sick. Then your blessed letter came in this week I was glad! Tho I've tried to write here your

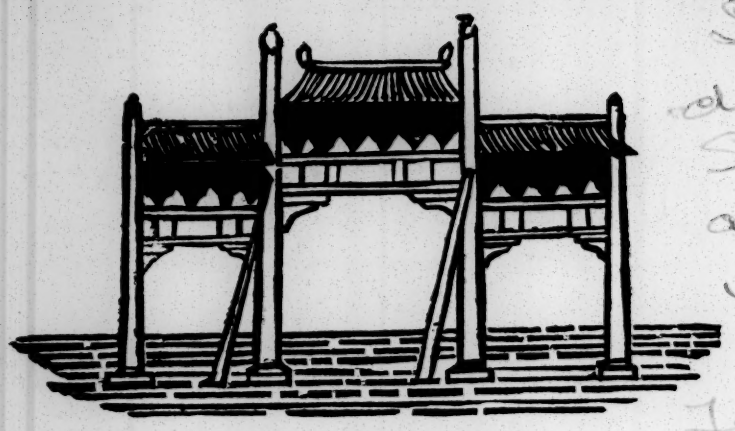


letter has been on my desk
all week but couldn't do
more to it — Monday Mr. E.
went back to Tsinan for
executive council. He wrote
since that they as a committee
decided not to settle my trans-
fer but to put it to the executive council in June
so I'm still not certain. However as the situation
is for present I'll most likely be here as they
have first right as a vacancy comes first on list
and Tsinings own workers aren't all in there so it
isn't likely I'll be sent. Then there is chance to
get sooner into work I'd like here - so as it looks
now in June I'll probably move out to Mission
house where the Comrades who go then on furlough
live. I'll probably store my junk there but I won't
live there by myself its a huge house — I'd much
depend on what we do for language ete for
summer whether we're a school or individual
work entirely, also what month we work, study
about summer plans. My greatest wish is to go
on living in a Chinese home. News: I plan now
to move to Mrs. Hsi's next Saturday, Mr. & Mrs.
Hsu went to Mrs. Tsui's today & asked if one of us
could if it couldn't be this week as Mr. Hsu has
to go away. She'll arrange the price & details etc
(true Chinese style) I can't go before Saturday,
I'll leave my rooms here as always - only take a
few needed things for the experiment. The boy here
will work for me & it will really be home, Mrs.
Cames is so sweet about it - said if I were in
need anytime to come back for meals etc to come.
She'll keep a room at her house for me for summer
till I know what I'll do. April 6 - 17 is Spring
vacation. I'm planning to go to the country
with this fine Chinese Bible woman and Mrs.
Cames said Hsi Sao, one of the servants here

it can go with me. He has been Mr. D'Alvis's country boy for ten years and he's so faithful, good natured and knows what to do, I'll live at the chapel with the Chinese woman & he can cook for us and help with anything. It is very fine & I'm so happy because the first country trip much will be strange & managing luggage on trains etc - hiring carts, etc all he can do - Of course there's a further advantage he can understand my talk & having been here all winter knows pretty much what I'd want. He is the one who helped us so much with garments - carrying cloth & cotton to the various places & garments back & taking rates etc - till Mr. Eames raised he was my servant - He's about 30 I expect & so faithful, I'll feel perfectly safe to have him manage this trip for me. I'm so happy over this prospecting trip. The country is lovely at that time & portions expected with wheats! I'm so eager for this trip to see this side of China & a peep into my future work.

The Chinese home is upstairs over a store on the main street - foreign style with water & toilet etc. I'll have a big south room, with stove & a glassed in porch separate where I can have my teacher and my own guests come. There are three kiddies in the family - and a Peking amah - I feel that it will be a great advantage. Please pray much over it - she was raised in a mission home & her husband is a son of a C. I. M. preacher - but back home gotten cold a bit & according to Mrs. Jenkins need a real Spiritual revival. If I can be of use I'll be so happy" - but only He can do such a thing. So please pray about this.

This Mr. Niu (Rich Chinese who gave the $100,) has been at church two Sundays & he told Mr. Walter that he wanted his daughter, who is now in Harbin with his Christian friend who sent the tracts, to be a Christian & not trained in Confucianism.



Surely he is nearing the King-dom. Its so sweet to see the Spirit working. Ite is helping at y.m.c.a. in some translating work (just to be doing something) and Mr. Smith has come to Mt. Tamalpais for material so this way we can get material in his hands.

Such a fine letter from Harry + Anna. It is just so sweet of them in their rush to think of me!

Your Singer letter came. Thank you. Sorry to have had to bother them. I guess I put it in U.S.S. but I can't check it as my passbook is New York office where they tend to the paying of those monthly installments + compliments them etc. I guess it went into that or else outfit sent the former I feel sure. Thank you for seeing about it.

Cecil's document came + I've signed it + registered it back. Some here say nothing is official unless done in consul's presence so I went to him with it but he said it wasn't in form for a notary + there were no places checked for me to sign so he decided where I should etc. I hope its right - if not. I told Cecil to be more explicit next time + I'd do it again! How I praise the Master that you will be cared for so amply and that you won't need to worry - It seems just an impossible thing sometimes that Daddy Si isn't here in person but he is with us in Spirit ever nearer! I am so glad he isn't suffering and in agony! Our missing him must always be colored by this great blessing and we may see him very soon.

I'm so glad you've had such fine meetings! Had a good letter from Bessie too + so glad, Mother. I still have your amber here - but will surely soon think of best way to send it. Tomorrow is Mrs. Lane's birthday we are going to take her and a few friends to the

restaurant and have shioaki for supper. also have her amber fixed with a gold wire to help her celebrate. She & her family make much of birthdays more than we used to at home. She will miss her husband very much. We can't do much to make these separated families but are glad to do what we can. Mrs. S. has surely been wonderful to me.

Tonight Dr. Johnston, our Shantung executive lead will be here for supper. He is so sympathetic and so fine we always enjoy him very much.

This P.M. I'm not going to foreign service but went to tea this P.M. Chinese, played at church. Heard Miss Ling teach this class of girls about Christ's coming & was struck again how oriental & also universal the Bible is. Old custom is to invite to a feast by invitation, then send a servant to invite & some places to have the host or hostess go to the guests. She told of God speaking thru prophets thru people refusing to listen & later God sending his son to bring them. It fit so beautifully the story & also their own old custom, it is interesting to see how she approaches those who have no background for it. We're getting some such fine work in our school on putting gospel truths in simple sentences and conversational material & drilling it over & over to learn to say it with Chinese flavor & rythm — I've had several such fine conversations with ones I've met. I feel that is the real point of evangelism — personal work & I love it! Living at the Chinese home will give more opportunity, & will break a few of the barriers of big walls & foreignism.

This a.m. in looking over the hymns I persisted in turning pages as we do instead of Chinese way from back to front. Yesterday took the 1000 character exam. had to recognize & write meaning of 300. That's over, just to get ready for the next exam.

Dearest ones, I must close now with all my love to all of you. I'm so proud of the boys A's. That's great, Mumsie dear, if you come I'll be sure to tell the rickshaw man for your so you won't have to fear!! Maybe some day — we'll see. I'd love it so — the uncertainty of future & if it's not uncertain the certainty of my being in country months or months makes it hard to know about. God bless & use you all with His fullness & His peace — is my prayer. Lovingly! Irene

101 Kuan Hsai Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
Sun. March 18, 1928

My Precious family!

While I've written my address the same as before- I am all moved into a Chinese home! I am reminded of last year when I didn't venture it by myself but went under Sarah's sheltering wing and here I am this year doing it alone! You'd be very interested I know in my new home. It is one the main business street not far from the sea. upstairs over some stores. Since it is a foreign style building we have rooms & bath just like anyplace else. I have a bed room & a closed in porch - board & room for $70.00 per mo. cheaper than before - only the rooms can't compare with those I was in - but that doesn't matter at all. In my bed room I've a, dresser, bed, [illegible] Chinese no springs but kind of woven grass frame which is very hard & flat - you know then I am well satisfied - I chest of drawers & a place to hang clothes, kind of a chiffonet with long mirror on the door, also a small stove & big arm chair - That's not exactly privation is it? My little glassed in porch opens off my bedroom but you enter it to go to the room so it's great for the teacher - he won't have to even know where it is as far as having to go thru it or anything - In it are a table & chair, arm chair, settee at present also a bird in a cage & a fern - Now you're introduced to all my new surroundings.

Now for the family. The latter, a returned

student who is now in business is in Shanghai + won't return till August. So there are here — Mrs. Hsu + her three kiddies - a boy 8, one 6, and little girl 3. She teaches piano in Pres. girls school. Besides them there is an amah from Peking + a cook who is Shanting man. I came yesterday about 5 o'clock + she had all fixed to clean - she has dresser scarfs + sheets but I have my own covers. I didn't move anything but present essentials so had bed roll + one long bag + coffee - which will immediately recognize as not beginning to be all my junk. I haven't brought anything to make it homey, except your pictures - Eula + Roy + Tims - yours + Daddy Sis, Isabel, Bud + Bessie. I may later but so far my study is the same up there + I am not sure I'll bring much. I want really to begin to do with less in way of familiar things into cut off any dependence on things for happiness don't worry I'm not getting queer - but it is very possible to be too dependent on things + not Christ for happiness. Then if we don't prize them so much we can more easily fit into whatever situation we may meet - even the loss of all things for the glory of Christ. I think homes now established in China must be on for simpler lines - even our very common homes in America are so far above the standard of China which the present economic conditions make possible that it makes what to us are necessities seem like great luxuries in comparison. We will have to cut down + weed that are necessities truly are and be willing to sacrifice. It is indeed a new role to me to be considered among the "millionaire" class - tho it isn't true - the ordinary Chinese considers foreigners as almost made of money - even to have more than one small room for a big family in itself is a luxury! Well, I had not thought of discoursing so widely — but I know next year I'll be in country lots + have nothing of the familiar so I might as well try it out a few weeks. Of course for years one needs the

familiar for balance etc —
Jews at unpacking when I digressed — Ida and helped me & hung up dresses & made my bed. She began to fold up the covers in true Chinese style when Mrs. Ida stopped her & told her to spread them over the bed. Someday I'll ask her to make me a real Chinese bed make first to see what it is. I brought Mary's spread — I'll never need it before as it is double & before I've had single beds. It is lovely. The food is so good — Chinese of course. Rice, vegetable dishes etc. This a.m. for breakfast we had coffee cream, toasted bread & butter & oatmeal. I think I'll have rice rather than oatmeal most of the time. I'll get fruit for myself as I need it to keep up the acid in my system. Please don't worry about me for I'm perfectly comfy & fine. Mrs Ida is very lovely & very complimentary on my Chinese — said she thought I'd been here four or five years etc. In spite of her insistance that she won't flattering etc. I know well enough she was using politeness (Ke chi) It is such fun to try to talk & to understand more & more — Sometimes I hardly believe its Chinese I'm hearing it seems so clear — I wake with a start — here it is Chinese & I'm getting the meaning! This language is a great thing!! I do love it so. The merchants — almost everyone you meet say conventionally "oh, you speak so well!" but it is the usual remark like how are you — so no one gets proud over it — & its said to yourself speaking poorly & I know it —
Today went with kiddies to S.S. & heard again. She was telling this class about shepherds & Christ's birth & it thrilled me so to hear it told & to realize it was their first time. I had to play for church again & it was a mess. My music I mean! The more one plays the more one realizes one can't! So with me anyway. I was tired this p.m. & slept three hours — for yesterday was a strenuous day; Adelia I shall look young — heard me miss Ling

4) speak of as Hallie who had moved to our house has been having rheumatism so wretchedly that yesterday Dr. came at 11:20 + said a boat is off to Peking at 1 - be ready. If we didn't flyto pack her off. I'd just washed my hair but it dried in the flying process; I'm so glad she's gone to be cared for + to find the source of it! Shid suffered so - called to dinner! later had pea pie, wrapped bread - a thin baked bread in which you place vegetables or meat + wrap it up + eat! Um! good! — She amah has just been in talking about fifteen minutes - so stopped again. She said in Peking they were 17 in her husbands' home + she had to do the work for all + he wasn't good to her, so she here with her mother and doesn't want to go back She makes enuf to care for her little girl + her mother She says she's had much sorrow - I guess the life of a daughter-in-law is surely not happy in most families. She says she believes Jesus + he comforts her.

This week has been eventful - besides moving — I am assigned to Tsingtao; they decided to wait till June as I said then because of complicating moving situations here - the three who were here decided to designate me + write to the other Two. Dr. Johnston is such a fine man + so thoughtful + all. He also approved of my living here - Well then Tues. we went to Mrs. Coomaddi's to lunch to meet the famous miss Chao with whom I am to work. I was so glad to met her. + loved her from the first. She is 45 I expect — with nice face + so fine. We planned that April 9-19. I'll go to the country with her - She is a wonderfully fine worker according to all reports. Hallie, Nita, + Miss Winslett have all been with her and speak so highly of her. That really influenced the decision for here as the return to Tsing is uncertain besides they're no good Bible woman with whom I could get this training — so the transfer is for a year -

They all welcomed me so cordially - it seemed nice to belong to someone after so long feeling I am unattached - tho I still feel a bit that way! Now the situation seems to be that in June I'll move out to the Conrad's house - its at the mission compound. They're trying to get a family to do his work while they're on furlough + if they do - that family too will be there, + I'll have a bed room + office there. It may be the family won't come till fall + then if so I'll be responsible for the place this summer - I think that would be fun. I'd rather like to try to manage the house + servants for a few months. Of course this isn't certain - but I keep thinking if I have the house - mother + I would'nt need any more room than I - + this summer would be very nice in some ways for you to come. In this way: Aug. I'll be free. June + July I'll be here in Tsingtao - in fall go to the country but I'd be in Tsingtao more this next year than later years - As long as I were here it would be easier for you mother than interior because there are more foreigners here + in stores etc. Mrs. Cames got a boy last week who understands + is studying English. I was thinking we could get him mother to help you + you'd not have to be pulled by one to whom you couldn't talk his not a rickrla man but I mean he could manage for you when I'd be away. Of course, the political situation is uncertain — noone can tell about it but Tsingtao is as easily evacuated as any other place + easier than most. The climate I judge ought not to be such a radical change as it is milder here for than Peking + not so hot as South China, it is much like Wellesley Valley

e) so that ought not complicate the situation much. You might come + stay as long as you are happy. Of course its costly to come. The president boats are all 1st class + I'd want you to come on them - however I'm told the Empress boats have 2nd class which are cheaper + very nice. According to all I see now this year seems to be more suitable than others, tho I can't say for I don't know - nor does anyone what it will bring forth: nor the years to come. But it is not likely I'd have a chance any other year - + may not this summer + I keep thinking how nice to have you there especially for the summer. I've thought more about it since a remark in Eula's letter - that she's really planning it. I can't take the whole responsibility of the decision tho it's up to you folks there, who know how all are etc. Bud + Les + Eula + you most of all Mother mine. If it would make you happy I see no reason why you shouldn't. For our whole desire is for you to be happy mother dear - It is Les's + Bud's + Wottens + Eula's + mine + tho all may not quite take the same route to attain it for you - that's the whole wish of all of us, your good valentine letter was surely welcome! Well, I'll have to correct my 14:45 duty - will have calling "enlightened U.S. the most "unenlightened on duty" etc etc - I'm surely glad it was it 14:45 - no matter - just so it was! I was so glad the meeting was so fine. Was so interested in the clippings sent of Ray's sermons. Eula could almost hear him preaching them, my! that's a lovely visit care! Sounds perfect! It will be such a joy to you I know! I am glad you love it! It was a lovely gift! Daffodils in bloom! Surely sounds like spring!! That was so nice you could visit Bud's + Bessie again and have such a nice visit with Mrs. Flowers. Bessie used to talk so often of her. I can just see you going on a spree + going to the Spa for ice cream then Bessie thinking you were lost!

Mother, I'm sorry if that I signed was not what you wanted but the letter came + instructions + that

T.

it was what you'd agreed to. I did it like that section but thought of course it was right to what you wanted. I agree with your third letter get things right before sending them all the way here + having them wrong or getting me to sign what isn't right - I'm no way here to discuss with you all - I'm trusting Dave details to all of you there. Please matter, if that hurts you by signing that you didn't like, forgive me- but what am I to do! I want absolutely your happiness by whatever means and it works my heart to think you've had even the least unpleasantness of it! for we all want your happiness + that only - Please, forgive me if I did wrong it wasn't intentional I assure you! for I love you so, Mumie mine!

Margie must be a case! That will be fun for Bessie to go with Bud! + do that demonstrating beside making something! So glad for Buds raise!! Praise the Heavenly Father!

Give Uncle Alva my love + I do hope he will be better very soon. I'll still send your mail to Eula. Be careful Mother not to over work! Dr. Koo.

We were invited to a tea Thurs. to meet + hear him talk. He is world known and one of China's Christian leaders! He spoke very interestingly and gave us some new facts on China's situation. He sees some hope in some new trends in policies, student attitudes and new emphasis on evangelism in rural centers. He made us just tingle with the joy of being in China during this transition time and feel so greatly the responsibility of our witness and work. Such great possibilities as there are! Please Give Eula the back side to read - Love + Love to all + my precious Mumsie dear - Irene

Dear Eula - Leo - Warren + Bud;

I've been dragged into this fiery correspondence with only what you've sent Eula - Warren's not come + I can only see part I know - but enuf to break my heart + ll I see is only one redeeming feature to such a mess - that is that all truly want Mattie's happiness + not the money tho there seems to be the ways of the antipodes to get to the same place. I got a letter from Mother from Salem - she mildly refers to the item as fixed up - how? I can't understand some things - what's brought this up? If it is worded as Cecil + Leo + Mother planned before why didn't you see all this then, Eula + mother + Grie Mother free hand just quoted enuf principal to be sure she'll always have some. I agree with Leo that she would ultimately be very unhappy if she felt she were dependent + his point is her happiness is to be gained by that assurance. Still I see she's been hurt by perhaps too frank a statement of what deep down we have to account for that she will not always be as now. While its true age brings changes - it must not be robbed in. I see Eula's side in her wanting to be free to spend without feeling she must ask. She's done that all her life + this money is hers + saved for + skimped for + whatever gives her happiness, even if supporting relatives [tho her happiness there should be criterion - not more demands made on her] don't feel she should help Aunt Callie much for Lord's own moral welfare - I thought to buck it + sooner the better - that's no kindness to them. Keeping Uncle Alva a few months won't imbalance the principal + I can see she can't help it. She's not so keen over it from her letter but she feels it her duty. I can see too - I'd be glad to help any of you, Aunt Jennie should not be terribly blamed. She's done a sister in law's part for years - I don't know present conditions tho, After all things I hate its fuss over money - and Mattie's happiness should be kept now at all costs when she begining to get over the grief + all. To thrust her into a new grief might mean her life! Could it be let law take its course give her the full home to use absolutely no strings + the other half ours putting trust in care! She must not be made to feel this having disapproval or approval in future on what she does!! I'd rather she'd waste it than we hurt over it but she told me she didn't want the responsibility - I can't see threw this at all. Anyway don't send me any more wrong papers to sign + make me hurt mother by signing what I'm trusting you to do + I can't discuss + argue over them when they come!!! I'll do as you tell me

Eula - I know this is very hard on you - but I'm sure you will be glad you did it - Mattie will be glad some day - for love and Mother

Eula? + Mattie did what I wanted right? + this old letter from Mother

Dearie mine, sure you've moved I hope you are comfy. I'm glad you unpacked ready to make it homey! I'm glad to know what kind of a place you have to live in

I hope the new bag is fixed all right -- see it must stand the trip here some day!

Since the literary digest you feel so tattered - maybe a little tiny paper reads get called Current Events" is all I'll get read anyway so get it. It isn't very expensive.

I had a nice letter from Aunt Callie & so glad to hear from her.

You have Xmas money there - I've decided what I want - I want a nice leather case in which I can carry yours & Dodsley Bess's" picture Have been expecting to get a nice peking comet frame but that's silly - as long as I'm in country work I want you with me. If you find a nice one with three sections I can put the rest of family in the third. Please see that the ivory glass in them doesn't make the faces look yellow - I think nice clear white can be gotten. Your pictures are getting a bit dirty & I can't have that - later I'll have you send extra copies & I'll get a nice Peking carved frame but not now. I want it just size of picture - I can carry it in bag with my Bible! Mother I'll return this cheek - maybe you'd want to use it on the frame - You said for me to use it there - but I want that most. Thank you. I hope it won't be trouble to find it.

port not cardboard

9. Mar. 6. letter I do hope uncle Alva's teeth extracting is over + he is already getting results - its usually no fun to have teeth pulled or to have them + him; - no mumie mine, I cant conceive your enjoying a holiday - I hope you find a nice one + are happy, mumie mine, you're so precious + sweet. I love you so much + want you to be happy. I'm sorry if living alone makes you more lonely for Hadaly Si - but he is right with you all the time. I do hope sometime maybe soon you can come to be with me tho I fear you'd have to be alone lots here even in Pinglas I want you to come now while you're feeling well + strong + can enjoy it.

I must answer Mr. Hamen about the church letter but will talk to Mr. Davies first about my letter being put in here - I guess I'll have to be hypnotized to two churches! + belong to I'm getting off to the country for ten days on Saturday go this hrs. on train + then on a cart & ki from the railroad, Ben San the faithful servant will go with me. He was quite delighted when Mr. Eames asked me + told him I wanted him to go! I feel so glad to take my first trip with a trusted one to depend one for trains + luggage + such matters; Now I'll be back April 14 + I understand mail service out there is difficult - so I'll keep my experiences written up + mail it when I return - now you must not worry over delay I trust all the matter of will is settled, and as you will be happy mother dear, You + Uncle Alva surely have enough to live on with your present income so you can be happy! I think if Woodburn place were sold even at less than investment you'd be glad!

Bye my blessed loved one. Tell, Eula I've two Roseburg letters I'd answer when back from country -

Love to all my dearest ones! How precious all are to me. God Keep you - lovingly. Irene

Library Lots of Letters Friday P. M.

My blessed dear Ones; Mar 21

How full the days are + how swiftly they fly by - here it is Friday ~~dead~~ a mail went this a. m. without a letter - I did not realize it till too late. Last night so you may imagine my joy to see in today's paper a fan letter leaving in the morning. So I dash to write at least a note that you'll get by this boat and not be worried.

It is after school now + I've just come back from getting Ray to storeroom where some things are still, + putting back woolen things I had out in the sun on the roof as last week I found some moths so that is finished now - + Sarah didn't wait for me so I'll just sit here in the library + write a note + mail it - on the way home.

One week of our third term has passed. In the morning we have common words, today's hours + buying a hat and still love "Dearest" - which at

2 Hebrews pleases us very much! He is still as wonderful! We surely enjoy his teaching!
Then in the P. M. we have the Evangelistic terms. It surely is hard but just what I've been longing for. This week we've had the Doxology, the terms for Bible, Christ, Jesus, God, Old & New Testaments, four gospels, preach, miracle such terms. They are surely hard but we enjoy them very much. It is harder as we've only had 4 days drill and about four times the words we had formerly. So I've just gone home - walked part way to get good exercise & studied till our Supper & then after - word. Mrs Chin helped me to learn the characters for the Doxology today we sang it in class. I've tried all week to get to bed early! So the week has sped by before I had any idea of its passing! I'll tell you about last week end -

3/ We went to Haitien to visit Mrs. Lewkenberry (name in the prayer book) and did have such a good good time! Went out on Sat A.M. 10:30 bus. There is an old prince's palace there with its numerous houses & court yards built out on an island = the river from the fode fountain of the Summer Palace goes around it. The Govt. has leased it for 33 yrs. hoping eventually to buy it. There are a number of faculty live in the lovely Chinese homes!! We call it the "garden" It is perfectly lovely. pagodas on various little knolls — and rock garden stone work not to mention the pretty bridges and winding walks! Who would want to live in a foreign house with these fascinating ones to live in!! I by lucky with Dr. Stuart the president of Yenching & we surely enjoyed that house lovely chinese carved partitions and lamps - inside and outside its lovely court with flower beds & gravel paths!! Mrs Lewkenberry is so gracious &

4] cordial we enjoyed it but enjoy every minute. At lunch Dr. Stuart, several chinese one his assistant + another + landscape gardener in Peking. It was most interesting to hear their discussion of the present situation. Then in P.M. we slept + took a walk over to another lovely chinese home where we were to have dinner. There we met some more nice chinese. This Mrs. Sung was a classmate of Mrs Chen. Her husband was closely involved with Feng Yuhsiang + since Chang Tso Lin has been in control he has been in hiding in the Legation for over a year — The family go to see him but he can't come out for fear of death. Naturally they are eager for Saulkin orders to come here. Then we went to an entertainment given by faculty — it was good. Sun. A.M. they had us Mills of Carvallis, + three of the bachelors of Yenching over for breakfast. We had such good waffles + a nice time — till 11 then went over to another

5] Sorry this is my last sheet (I can't use both sides) Have for dinner that was very nice— Went back to Mrs. Lukenbury + then to church at 4:30 - had no a.m. service. The service was Episcapal + he preached a splendid sermon on the "Cross" [redacted] big group of Christ's congregation was painfully small that present but I couldn't but feel that too much modernism in the place + too little religious emphasis may be cause. I expect I don't know enuf of the situation to judge so don't quote me. Come home Sun. eve.

The papers at home I suppose have us all killed since Shanghai has been taken by Soulthers! I'll bet they were about wild. We of course feel no result so

4/ for though it's only a matter of time till they're here I think. If the moderate element can get control the whole movement will be of value. It may seem radical for a time but it will right itself. It is the retreating army in Shanghai causing some trouble + Southerners seem desirous of keeping order. I suppose Helen is either in Nanking in the legation or in Shanghai - judging from the papers. She is safe alright - Betty Wright came over on boat with us is here now from Antwerp as the consul said they'd better leave.) She is a friend of Sorokis so is living there with us. It is very nice to have her.

I've been writing Bud for two weeks but surely will get it off next mail. Will try tomorrow to get a lot of letters off.

Bye precious ones I don't forget to remember whatever or wherever we are in Hisaar + He says "to Jam with you" to precious Mrs peace in our hearts + keep little cue reflect turn to others.

All my love to you precious ones!! Rom 11:33 You've no idea how much it's been means

Bye.
Gene

(#9)

was a pretty white cloth + at the side a table with white cloths set for tea with armchairs at end — on which were nuts, oranges, candy + cakes beautifully arranged. I had to sit in "grandfather's" chair, after a very polite welcome spread by Edwards + a welcome song by three girls, we had table talks + jokes + then speeches by each of us. It was lovely. I couldn't but compare these gracious well bred folk with the rabble we had seen of the morning. Truly Christ in the least makes a difference!

Monday March 25. I got so sleepy the last nite I had to sleep. I'm just determined to get this letter off. Today is rest day in name as I go on tomorrow. But I know there will be crowds here + nicks pack so I fear for my letter. Therefore I'm writing in bed. Cook came early to wash + I've had a quiet time + now I'll just stay on the rising + write, as long as I'm in bed — here now one will come in, that doesn't always act as a barrier but it does in this place.

I have mentioned my Bible class. It was real fun + three dear people have been lovely + patient with

18] my lack of language + when they did not understand, asked + helped so I know some at least understood.
The group here are even of higher ability than at Tai shih chuang + I just praise the Master for using me a wee bit! It is such a joy to be here. One day after class I went for a little walk outside of the walls. Seeing a lot of flags I returned by a different way. They were having the dragon dance for rain + worship the wheat goddess. I rushed for my camera hoping to get a picture — I asked them outright as I could not take it secretly + they were highly pleased much to my surprise + joy. They set the goddess out + that was also a surprise for some are superstitious + wouldn't let one take her picture. They let me tell them just when to stand + all. I hope it will be good. About fifteen men carried on poles a long cloth dragon, stuffed with straw + painted like a dragon with an enormous head made of paper on a bamboo frame, gorgeous in colors and in his big open mouth a most realistic tongue. As man, the leader

19) carried a red paper ball on the end of a stick & with it he directed the movements of the dragon — the dragon by rapid, rythmic upward waving movement made it writhe beautifully The old story is that the dragon was chasing a "pearl of fire" flaming pearl is the reason for this. See the dragon is supposed to bring rain. — I got this picture & then the goddess. She was a beautiful Chinese girl, all made of paper seated in a sedan chair — which was, likewise made of paper. In front the offerings of paper & incense to be burned, some wheat etc. — On the 21 of 1st month — She & her chair were burned in a neighboring village. She to ascend to heaven to plead for good crops.

On Sunday the fifteenth — which is lantern festival we had quite a novel experience. We saw Chinese city of the dead a blaze of little twinkling lights. This city of the dead is almost as populous as the cities of the living, graves every where pointed cones of earth that have at the fifteenth a little light in a shallow red lamp. first at

2) dusk the lights are lighted — to draw out the worms that have gotten in the body of the dead during the year — not a very pleasant thought — but it is symbolic of the loving care + reverence given the + body of spirit the dead. It was a lovely sight as far as we could see — the plain were all a twinkle of shimmering lights. Some parts of China do not keep this part of this feast celebration - but put lights out in front of a house — some originally to help the spirit find the homes for return to earth at that time — In Saingtao + south I know many celebrate this festival of lanterns just for the beauty of it. —

One day, we had a little peep into the tragedy of life — a tragedy of sin + its results — which may happen in any land or to any heart in which Christ is not the Lord but in the large family system of china + in the darkness

21] of the general surroundings there is greater occasion for this tragedy. Miss Wang & I went to visit in a home at a little distance from the church. Miss Wang was talking to the group which gradually became larger & larger. Finally a woman came asking if we would go to see a girl who had tried to committ suicide. We went & found she already vomitted several days so she could not die — but Miss. W. gave her a good lesson in uncertainty of life — and the four or five girls seated on the kang (& eachother) listening said to themselves — "we won't do it then" — we could tell from what they said that each one had had that intention. Oh the emptiness of many lives & unhappy home makes death seem welcome, death with its uncertainties to no hope seems preferable to its certainity of the present unhappiness. This was an unmarried girl — which was rather unusual. Suicides mostly are among daughter-in-laws. We gave her

22] a good dose of salts to clear out the poison and gave her what she asked for better a little hope at happiness at least in future — I'd joy of having a real hope + a real message to give such is simply beyond expression. When one sees behind the veil we feel even more strongly how sin has brought ruin to the human heart! Praise Him we have a hope to give them.

We were surely treated with great kindness, invited out many times for nice Chinese food - I've almost learned to sit cross legged on a Kang. I can manage it for about half a meal + then I have to straighten them out! I'm so grateful that I like Chinese food so well + it likes me so well! They love it + makes entertaining one possible, otherwise they couldn't!

I've have been such amusing things happen. I just nearly die

23) sometimes I have to explode and enjoy it all by myself. Was so amused at an elderly woman who became in the bad false teeth, unusual, but that was a sign of her having traveled to Ningpo - she was so proud of her teeth & told me all about them!!

The blind boy from Pei Ssing is in school now in Shanghai. That is just an answer to prayer. Am so glad. They have a splendid school there & they've taken him as a charity pupil. We must send some money each year. I rather think I'll write to ask Bethel young people to send some for him. Mrs. V. once mentioned it, & I knew something they could do.

Later

The letter is getting written just by grim determination! Before I'd gotten up callers & sick have interrupted it again & again but I'm just determined to get it off. We closed clinic at Tsai Chik Chuang at 5 P.M. & Mr. Tsao came to get us to come on to Ito Li Chuang. We walked the three li & some of the friends of Tsai Chik Chuang - just were determined to come all the way with us. I saw after they went back we soon saw a group coming out from Ito Li Chuang to meet us - they said

24] the old Mrs. Tan 95 years old had come out several times to meet us + had gone back - as we neared the gate there she was - the dear[illegible], enthusiastic christian - truly wonderful! She was the first of this village to believe. She was taking a relative's little girl to Sai Gik Chiang where she heard old Mr. Corbett was. He preached to her + she believed instantly! Came home + at the persecution she had, but she just went on believing + went to Sai Gik Chiang + a christian there taught her. Now her whole family believe - all of her winning. Several ministers + all have good education. + are just splendid! She is a great character! Its was to[illegible] old Chinese large family in which she ruled supreme. Now they're divided + each has their own land but she still is ruler. In early days she founded a school + had all her daughter-in-laws + nephews wives etc first come to school + study, all the family can read - women + all + Sabbath now is a closed here - burial on land that she gave - She says - when they built it she was so happy she couldn't sleep at nite but just thanked God. They are an unusually intelligent group + in Bible class they can

25] understand the deeper things of the
etc enthusiastic + so fine. Three homes
all are inside one big gate — nice homes
with cleaned nice courtyards — swept
& clean. I was so happy to get here!
They all said from the first I had returned
to my old home. See I am darn too!
The old Master at first treated us so
well! I have rooms next to hers + then
Miss Cowang next to mine. She'd come
to see if we'd slept well etc. According
to Chinese custom — we should have
gotten up early to go to greet her — eldest
daughter-in-laws - do early each morning.
She often walks at nite + prays out
loud. Each morning early + at nite she
sees her own little service. If we
went out she'd keep looking for us,
if we were invited to a meal - about
half thru she'd come just to see we
were all right, She'd wait for me to
go to church + come back. + each time
we see me say "This is my beloved one".
Yesterday she said I was her adopted
daughter - she'd had six sons + no girls -
so she said I was her adopted
daughter. It was so funny. All the
group were here on my visit + all

were calling me what they should-
It amused me so- aunt, & Sister-in-law-
& great auntie etc- It surely was
amusing all of a sudden to have such
an array of relatives, Since I have a
sister - old mrs. Law - said your mother
must divide & give her one! That
makes me the "second Aunt" - we laughed
& said it was like the Bible states -
"to those whom & loved ones shall
receive hundred fold more - well
I'd love to look long for a nicer or
bigger family than this! They are so
nice to me! They said I must come
home for New Year!! We sure laughed
a lot about it. It is sweet that
they have so accepted me - tho I
tell them "I am not worthy".
Miss Wang & Chow left today &
I go tomorrow. This time I'll not
return to Liangtao first. In all be
six weeks in all that I've been out -
but have it felt it long at all!
Will have a long trip tomorrow of
70 li in a cart - we'll pile in all the
luggage & two ride & one walks in
turns, Sealer & coats & I. There
will be two other Bible women there

28/ to work with, one a daughter of the family. Well, my room is full of
yanks to get medicine + I'm not go-
ing later, I will finish. — I forgot. old mrs
Law-lor said several times that she
wants me to give you her regards +
love. + I'm sure she will see you.
mrs claw + Wang, + cook all send
regards. mumie, I thank the master for
your sweet spirit about delayed mail.
It makes it easier than busy days when
I simply can't get letters written —
Even today, has just been a struggle
to get this off.

No, Bessie didn't send to me for the mother
beads but I just thought they looked like
mr. swope should wear + thought I did
I told them + knew Bessie would get the
something so did just mail them for her
to give her. I thought $2.50 wouldn't break
them up now. Mother one of my letters
must have been lost, for in one I
relate all about the beads + said
yours was white jade.

Mr. Chandler came out for a couple of
days here on his testimony — said the
committee had assigned me to Lexington
permanently!, + that he had the joy
of announcing it to me.

If you write mrs. L. again give her my

29] love — I brought an envelope for addressed to her but that's as far as she gotten with it! Your saying that about the floor + the ceiling + the floor made me realize how clumsy I have become + made me laugh — of course I realize that it wouldn't have been possible for a floor but I didn't even think of it — I guess I have become clumsy!. But Ray I have not lost my sense of humour nor do I cease to joke!!!!!!! I'll admit I did not get the joke!!!!!!! — I didn't get the point that the soap doll was a man. Ray I'm sorry. Was it the soap doll - that's all I can recall that can answer to that description. I saw Ray's name on it but I guess I thought of little Ray — you'll think I have lost my sense of humor — not to have gotten the point! As the Chinese say "I have no face"!

All together I've had 4 letters really sent here, it's been wonderful!

I t was so nice you could see the old friend who lost the quitter! Mummie, dearest am glad you got the new screen + all. I think I already told you about the victrola I guess it's long I'll ever be — I for dusty it's. Did you get that little of about it? I'll not repeat now.

30] Your Feb. 18, the Cook was very happy this prayer helped. It was upset of you to send out all my gifts since you like to. I'll so [illegible] You ought to write out that cake receipt Twas so good! Thank Mrs. Ashcraft for the perfume. I have enjoyed it so! I'm surely proud of the twin !!

That surely is a joke about the dinner invite. Now if we in America followed Chinese customs would not make such a mistake. They wait till all is ready - after first inviting of course - & then one of the family comes to personally conduct you to the dinner. Have you found out yet who it was who invited you?

Well, our dispensary here has just been amazing. I've spent on an average of 4 hrs. a day at it. Mr. Li has helped so much!! - of men come he does all for them. Those few hours with Dr. Calfee have just been invaluable. Those need almost every bit of help he gives how much

31J easier it has been & I have been
able to give no small relief to the
many who come not to speak of
the relief to me to be able to help a
bit. Several babies with bad
dysentery - one bitter - well &
all the boils of all kinds !!! I
have literally seen 100's here, & other
places more - other places elsewhere
seem not prevalent here. A dear old
couple giving over death of daughter
stopped going to church, the mother
said she'd left Jesus eight years &
about cried her eyes blind - unhappy.
She said "Where is there any happiness!
This Flow was with her daughter &
She talked to her, - well, they'll come
back to the Master, & daily prayer
& peace in her heart have given her
sight that she can see the road to
go - the walls of a rooms & outlines of
figures! "Happy" is no word for it!!
If she alone were the only one who'd
had benefit it would be worth every
effort & I know there are more than she.

32] If is afternoon I'll have my last
elders in Bible, service + one more
chapter. This letter is most scrappy
+ not at all complete. I have written
these last pages eating - I'm just
determined to get it done, —
Pack up things - but a.m. have to
do the last things - bed + store in
the morning. —

My dearest Sister I was so
happy to get your letter!! + I
do praise God with you + for
you. It was such a good letter.
I am sure it must have been days
of miracles that you + W. pulled
are still alive!! I am so grateful
for Him. + His love.

Well, my blessed one I must
close - I almost mentioned the
funeral of Saturday but that
can wait. For now I must
close. With love - love to
my most precious family

33) you're just a precious family
& you mean more than I
can tell!!

With all my love &
prayers for you. Oh do!
pray for these needy folkks
& scattered villages -

Yours →

Irene.

Another one of the "the" family came in
to ask me to send regards to all the
family. Add Mrs. Tam just came in to
see whether I'd give you her regards.

Kee thinks you'll like it how
down about Mrs Tam).

31] 1928
be so hard, my. Woodburn + Oregon City have already planned
dates, I hope to be able to
see all surely but on the
same day would that hustle!!
Yes, the lake would surely
suit me. I'd love it. I get
the sea here + somehow the
mts have a call unparalleled
— the call of childhood perhaps!
That's a good arrangement for
the house money!
Have had a big few days since
I came back — so much to do. Got
my old tan coat dyed — + came
out a lovely dark blue — with new
wild cat fur for collars + sleeves
I'm having that 'vogue' coat with
squares on elbows!! + my old black
silk — white fur collar in its last state
to make a little black jacket for
the rose crêpe Mrs. Ickes gave me —
(afternoon dress) Then the green jersey
dyed + to be made into jacket + skirt
for the lovely blouse Bessie sent,
my old white shirt cleaned +
old Scotch jacket + flannel dyed
red for the white shirt — a few
left over flannel pieces to make
a beret.

4 Then the old blue silk that Mrs. Dodd made remade a bit — a pair of grey shoes made + that's all about will fill up holes in Shanghai. Isn't this sound like old times to be making over! I hate to throw them away + the repairs will be little in comparison. A Russian dress-maker is doing it. She is such a 'relief'. Here is the 'country-bump-kin' who hasn't thought of styles or clothes for months + she's so relieving + assuring + has such good ideas + seems so sure she can fix it so I just dump things there + speed on about my other affairs. You'll still still myaid duds but in a new form! I feel sort of hesitant about these new styles so different I'll feel queer in them. As I do now in foreign clothes. I'm so accustomed to china clothes that when I come in there even I feel queer!

Our country trip was great in many senses of the word. It was great trial to get there had as wonderful welcome + as it to make up for the

1

5) fog the master let us see the results; Wed. into we got on the little kerosene boat - bag + baggage to be told it wouldn't leave till 9. m. Left coats there to wait + we came home to sleep! Got eatables on the way home - Rained + blew so all night we were glad we'd gotten off. Next a.m. clear + bright we got off - no an odorous boat - It was just the time of the run of a long flat silver sided fish + they had been poached open in the storage that mixed kerosene - well the girls were sea sick! The boat went 50 miles away from our port - having said before that they'd take us there - well off into flat boats poled from its stern + into a chinese inn, found a nice clean one + after a rest + supper. Miss Hsu + I had a meeting out on front + a good crowd several very attentive + eager. Next am on wheel-barrows for the fifty li — The man who has ventured the

No. 1 月 日

te. night before was one. He asked many questions about the gospel & asked if he should burn incense & offer food before the tracts were given to him. He said, I want to whether God do that if you say. That of course is the first idea of worship that they (non-christians) have. We had time to tell him more fully - & his comprehension was manifested a little later. We were crossing a river & my first shocking experience at being carried on a man's back. It was funny - a man had gone just before us & sank into hole & almost didn't get his foot out. Well this process is funny up spring up on the man's back & put your arms around his neck) & he holds your feet that are curled over his back). Well this man got me on & at once I saw we were getting nearer the water but not going. His legs were sinking into that hole

7] The alter. men came & pulled & at last they got me over - but it was so funny - I couldn't keep No. A B
from laughing. He said to miss Lara, "He heavenly father will help me not to drop her" I making use of what he had learned in calling god - 'Heavenly father' He record or didn't know how to carry he didn't bend over nor load my feet — & the river was wide the shallow so by the middle of stream I was hanging on his neck - he could hardly breathe — and walked — & I was hanging with all my weight on my cleat — well we were both glad to get across. They said I didn't get up high enough so the 3rd time I decided to spring & almost convulsed the girls by springing so high that I almost went over the man - much to his astonishment - To foreign eyes it might have seemed a bit of 'leap frog' but I got up all right!! I'm sure these men won't soon forget — — the carrying the foreign woman.

8/ Quiet! Such a welcome as we got from the groups of teen age girls who had believed first last summer + the gifts of eggs + shrimps that they brought! The Spirit works in a marvelous way + in ways most surprising. It was beyond our faith that in an absolutely heathen village, girls with absolutely no chance of ever getting out to school or had ever heard before of Christ in the old family system should come out so + stand thru persecution + ridicule + when bandits came + all the rest fled to Tsingtao they stayed on as usual - saying "We have Jesus we aren't afraid". Meet all the time to sing + pray. That place has a custom, not usual, but there all of the people gamble play cards - wives + daughters + Son's wives - rich + poor. Have a little time or neglect work to play! These girls formerly were the leaders in that. Their girls

it absolutely & don't ever care to play! I confess I felt rebuked by their faith & my own lack.

No. A B

There was one bride who came this time for first - She smoked a pipe — (common) & when Miss Dreo told her - She said - oh - is that wrong - why then I'll quit. I won't smoke!! They were so bright & learned so fast. Unusual - most places older people are the beginners or founders of a group but here a group of teen-age heathen girls. We surely missed a man to help - my teacher didn't go as his father has just died - We had to be very careful - not to have the men with these girls - it wouldn't do. So at night there came a group to the cook's home. I taught them a few nights - & cook helped them too - I was studying desperately & often at night too tired to go. Got off 10 chs. Genesis by myself & recognition

18] of 500 characters. Those 2 exams are off praises be. Just more this week for which I'm not prepared! Have 15 hrs. work on newspaper + writing 350 new characters — 500 in all. But He hasn't failed me yet now will He. I'm sure.

Please write when you do to Ida that I love the luncheon set for her sister in law + the spreads are beautiful I do hope she'll like them + will try to get crystal beads going through too expensive here.

Well dears it is late + this week so full I must get to bed.

Much love. I'll write next week. I have one more trip out over Sunday (next) leave here June 24.

Much love —

Irene